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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Maternity Leave for Factory Workers/Child Care Procedures

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2. If a female worker in Bulgaria becomes pregnant she is given one month of medical leave prior to the birth of her child and two months after. During all that period she is paid full wages. In addition she receives 160 lev for her first child, 320 lev for the second and 480 lev for third. Both parents are exempted from the bachelor's tax after their third child is born. After the third child the mother gets no bonus for further children. However, a mother who has nine children receives a special medal for motherhood.
3. "During the first two months the new born baby remains with his mother. After two months the mother goes back to work, but she works only six instead of eight hours a day. Before going to work she takes the child to the day nursery. Each factory employing a fairly large number of women must have a day nursery located close to the factory. The nursery is paid for by the factory, the parents paying a small token amount for daily care.
4. At the factory near 1 Mlot in Gabrovo such day nursery is located on Poleznicharska Street, about 300 yards away from the factory. In the summer of 1950 a building was selected by a number of mothers as the most suitable for a nursery. Within two days the house was evacuated of all occupants by a decree of Tenants' Court (Mlishten sud), and the day nursery was organized.
5. If the baby gets sick the nursery notifies the mother and the factory administration. In practice such procedure is applied only when the baby is seriously ill. The mother is then given a few hours off, which she has to make up the next day. Should the time loss exceed 24 hours and the mother

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be unable to work overtime to make it up, her pay check is proportionally reduced.

6. This lasts until the baby is one year old. Once he is a year old he is transferred to a Weekly Nursery, financed and kept by the city government. Working mothers must take their children to these nurseries. The child is delivered on Monday morning and picked up on Saturday at 6 a.m. During the week parents are not permitted to see their children. They can communicate with the nurses and bring for the child whatever they deem necessary.
7. This lasts until the child is five years old. The parents pay for child's upkeep in accordance with prescribed rules. Once the child is five it is sent to a kindergarten (gubaweznica). There it is kept for an entire month outside its home. Parents are permitted only to take their child home once a month for 24 hours. In the meantime they have visitors' rights.
8. Only after a child is seven is it permitted to return home and attend school from home.
9. A friend of mine had a small child in kindergarten in Gabrovo. I used to visit them on holidays and saw the child at home. The child sang songs about Stalin. He maintained that the big factories with smoking chimneys, where his mother and father worked, were given to the Bulgarians by Father Stalin and that they were our own. The child's father laughed. He said that factories belong to Uncle Chervenkov. But the child was stubborn and repeated that factories belong to the Bulgarian people and that Father Stalin himself said so.
10. Another friend of mine had a six year old daughter in kindergarten. I was there when she was at home. My friend had some unpleasant problems and was cursing the Communists in front of his wife. The child started to cry. Everybody asked what was wrong. She said that we are not supposed to talk that way about Communists and that her teacher asked her to listen to what her parents said at home and to repeat it. There are similar cases in primary schools. Often fathers are sent to prison or labor camps without realizing that they were denounced by their own children.

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